

COMPENDIUM

Listing of Special Regulations in Effect for Big Bend National Park

2005

Authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 1 through 7, the following regulations are established by the Park Superintendent for the proper management, protection and public use of Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River.

These regulations apply in addition to the criminal laws of the United States and the regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations. A person convicted of violating a provision of these regulations shall be punished by a fine as provided by law, or by imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings.

Prepared by:

Laura L. Van Inwagen
Law Enforcement Specialist

Date

Reviewed by:

Mark E. Spier
Chief Park Ranger

Date

Approved by:

John H. King
Superintendent

Date

Table of Contents

SECTION 1.5: CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS.....	1
SECTION 1.6: PERMITS	3
SECTION 2.1: PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.....	3
SECTION 2.2: WILDLIFE PROTECTION.....	4
SECTION 2.3: FISHING	4
SECTION 2.4: WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS.....	5
SECTION 2.10: CAMPING.....	5
SECTION 2.13: FIRES	8
SECTION 2.14: SANITATION AND REFUSE.....	9
SECTION 2.15: PETS	10
SECTION 2.16: HORSE AND PACK ANIMALS	10
SECTION 2.20: SKATING, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.....	11
SECTION 2.21: SMOKING	12
SECTION 2.22: PROPERTY	12
SECTION 2.23: RECREATION FEES	12
SECTION 2.35: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.....	12
SECTION 2.51: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS	13
SECTION 2.52: SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER	13
SECTION 3.3: BOAT PERMITS.....	14
SECTION 3.6: PROHIBITED OPERATIONS	15
SECTION 4.21: SPEED LIMITS.....	15
SECTION 4.30: BICYCLES.....	15

APPENDIX A: PANTHER JUNCTION SHOOTING RANGE RULES FOR PRIVATE RECREATIONAL USERS.

APPENDIX B: BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING USE LIMITS.

APPENDIX C: MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 7 - PET POLICY.

APPENDIX D: MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE NO. 14 - SMOKING POLICY.

APPENDIX E: DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PUBLIC ASSEMBLY.

APPENDIX F: DESIGNATED AREAS FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS.

SECTION 1.5: CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS.

(a)(1) Closures.

The following areas will be closed to public entry from February 1 through May 31. These closures are for protection of the Peregrine falcon, currently classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a Species of Special Concern.

- The Southeast Rim Trail and a portion of the Northeast Rim Trail from the Boot Canyon/South Rim junction to a point just north of Campsite NE-4.
- All Southeast Rim campsites as well as Northeast (NE) campsites 4 and 5 are closed during this period.
- Crown Mountain, Lost Mine Peak, and Toll Mountain
- Technical rock climbing faces within ½ mile of a known eyrie site, as posted.

Additional trail and/or area closures or use limitations may be implemented. The closures published in the Annual Peregrine Action Plan are hereby adopted. Violating these published restrictions is prohibited.

Except for essential administrative purposes in support of bat species, Emory Cave and Mariscal Mountain Caves will be closed to public entry from May 15 to September 15 to prevent disturbance during reproductive periods.

The Boquillas Crossing Road is closed to vehicles beyond the intersection with Boquillas Canyon Road.

The San Vicente Crossing Road is closed to vehicles beyond the intersection with River Road

The Santa Elena Crossing Road is closed to vehicles beyond the gate.

The Rio Grande within the boundaries of Big Bend National Park and Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River is closed to automobile traffic, whether self-powered or under tow.

Motorized watercraft used within the park is limited to conventional boats with up to 60 horsepower inboard or outboard motors. Jet skis are not allowed in the park (see Title 36 CFR 3.24).

Gas-powered motorized watercraft will be prohibited on the following sections of the Rio Grande:

- Santa Elena Canyon, from the western Park boundary to the Santa Elena Canyon take-out.

Motorized watercraft will be prohibited on the following section of the Rio Grande except for the month of October:

- Mariscal Canyon, from Talley to Solis.

Motorized watercraft will be prohibited on the following section of the Rio Grande:

- Boquillas Canyon, from the entrance of Boquillas Canyon to the eastern boundary of the park.

The drainage structure where Hannold Draw passes under Alsate Avenue in the Panther Junction residential area is closed to any purposes other than NPS administrative functions.

The Langford Hot Springs area, including the parking area, the loop trail, and the area from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to 1/2 mile downstream from the springs along the Rio Grande is closed to the possession of glass bottles or containers.

(a)(2) Use Limits.

Use of the overhead lights at the Panther Junction tennis court is limited while the San Vicente School is in session to the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. When school is not in session, the hours for use of the lights are from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Activating the overhead lights at any other time without written permission from the Park Superintendent is prohibited.

The use of portable electric drills to set anchors for climbing is prohibited.

The use of hand operated drills is allowed only with written approval of the Superintendent.

The rock faces of Casa Grande Peak and all areas within 1/2 mile of known Peregrine falcon nesting sites are closed to climbing.

The use of oil based or colored climbing chalk is prohibited.

The idling of buses while loading, unloading, or waiting for passengers to re-board is prohibited. Drivers must turn the engine off before passengers disembark and turn the engine on only after all passengers have boarded.

The filling or transportation of a container with flammable or combustible liquids is prohibited, unless the container is specifically designed to contain and safely transport such material (OSHA/DOT approved) and is capable of containing no more than 10 gallons. No more than 20 gallons may be transported per vehicle

The use of public water sources within the park is limited to a total of five gallons per day, per visitor.

SECTION 1.6: PERMITS.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.6(f), the following is a list of activities for which a permit is required. Permits are issued by the Superintendent and may be subject to special requirements. Engaging in these activities without a permit, or violating the terms and conditions of a permit is prohibited.

Exploration of Caverns	1.5(a)(2)
Day use hiking for Burro Mesa above 3400 feet elevation	2.1(b)
Fishing in Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park (state license required)	2.3(a)
Fishing within park boundaries	1.5(d)
Specimen Collection	2.5(a)
Research Activity	2.5(a)
Campground Use (Developed campground fee receipt)	2.10(a)
Backcountry Camping	2.10(a)
Livestock Use	2.16(g)
Recreational Use Fee (entrance)	2.23(a)
Special Event	2.50(a)
Public Assembly	2.51(a)
Sale/Distribution of Printed Material	2.52(a)
Agricultural Use	2.60(b)
Memorialization (scattering of human ashes)	2.62(b)
River Use	3.3
Post or distribute commercial notices or advertisements	5.1
Incidental Business	5.3
Commercial Photography	5.5
Commercial Vehicle Use	5.6(c)
Waiver of Fees	71.13(d)

In all cases, the permit or letter of authorization must be in the permittee's possession at all times and must be exhibited to any authorized person upon request.

SECTION 2.1: PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES.

(a)(4).

Dead and down wood may be collected from the flood plain of the Rio Grande and used for campfires where permitted. Such campfires must be in accordance with Section 2.13(a)(1).

(c)(1).

Fruits, nuts, and berries may be collected by hand for personal consumption on site without a collection permit.

SECTION 2.2: WILDLIFE PROTECTION.

(d).

Wildlife lawfully killed outside the park may be transported through the park under the following conditions:

- Persons transporting animal carcasses will have in their possession a valid state hunting license.
- Animal carcasses shall display a valid state game tag when required.
- Animal carcasses must be covered and out of sight.
- Animal carcasses shall be subject to inspection at any time by authorized law enforcement personnel.
- Animal carcasses may be transported through the park only on Route 13 (Hwy 118), Route 11 (Hwy 385) and the North Rosillos road.

Possession or transportation of live wildlife in the park is prohibited.

(e).

All areas of the park are closed to the viewing of wildlife with an artificial light.

Artificial light is defined as a flashlight, hand-held spotlight, headlights, exterior vehicle lights or other light, which is emitted from a non-natural source. This also includes any infrared or similar light used in connection with a scope or electronic viewing device.

SECTION 2.3: FISHING.

(a).

A State of Texas fishing license is required to fish the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park.

A free NPS fishing permit is required for fishing in the park. Each party fishing will need one permit per fishing trip.

Jug fishing or free floating line fishing is allowed within Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park. Jug lines must be marked and dated daily.

Trotlines and throwlines must be marked with a gear tag and marked and dated daily.

If flagging is utilized to mark trotlines or throwlines, it may not be attached to vegetation.

(d)(1).

Trotline fishing is allowed within Big Bend National Park, provided each end of the fishing line is anchored to the same river bank in a fashion that does not interfere with water vessels or swimmers.

(d)(2).

Possessing and using live bait minnows obtained locally from the Rio Grande is allowed for fishing in the Rio Grande. (See Big Bend National Park Special Regulations in Title 36 CFR 7.41)

SECTION 2.4: WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS.

(a)(2)(ii).

Park residents may not possess a loaded firearm within the park, except within their primary residence or while using it at the firearms range, unless they are a certified law enforcement officer with jurisdiction within the park.

Park residents may use the law enforcement firearms range at Panther Junction for target practice. This use is subject to the rules and restrictions of Appendix A. Violating these rules and restrictions is prohibited.

SECTION 2.10: CAMPING.

Frontcountry Camping.

(a).

Camping is allowed only in designated campgrounds. Campgrounds are designated by appropriate signing and by brochures and maps available to the public at ranger stations and visitor centers.

Recreational Fee Permits are required for overnight stays in developed area campgrounds, and will be issued by a self-registration system. The permit application requirement shall be met by completing the fee collection envelope, inserting the required payment into the envelope, and depositing the envelope in the security container at the registration station within 30 minutes of arrival in the campground.

Forty-three (43) sites at Rio Grande Village campground and twenty-six (26) sites at the Chisos Basin campground are reservable from November 15th to April 15th each year. Reservations for these campsites may be made 240 days in advance. Visitors may contact ReserveUSA year round to make reservations for these sites.

Reserving or holding those campsites in front country campgrounds that are not operated under the reservation system is prohibited. Campsites may not be paid for prior to the occupant's arrival.

Reservations are required for the use of designated front country campground group campsites. Occupying a group campsite without a reservation is prohibited. A letter of authorization will be issued for use of group campsites. This letter must be in the possession of the group leader and must be displayed upon request to any authorized employee.

Occupancy of group campsites is limited to 7 consecutive nights and 14 nights total between November 15 and April 15. Camping in the park for more than 28 days in a calendar year is prohibited.

Occupying developed NPS campsites for more than 14 consecutive nights is prohibited. Camping for more than 28 nights in a calendar year, in any combination of frontcountry and backcountry sites, is prohibited. Occupying developed campsites for more than 14 nights during the period from February 1 through April 15 is prohibited.

Exceeding two motor vehicles, one vehicle with trailer, one motorhome with tow vehicle, or four motorcycles per campsite is prohibited. Vehicle(s) must be parked on pavement or designated area. In no case shall the number of vehicles exceed the designated parking area capacity.

Exceeding one wheeled camping unit and one tent, or four tents per campsite is prohibited.

Exceeding eight persons per campsite, except for designated group sites, is prohibited.

Exceeding the limit of persons in a group site, as listed below, is prohibited.

Basin Campground:

Group site – tents only

Site L - 20 persons/10 tents

Site M - 10 persons/5 tents

Site N - 14 persons/7 tents

Site O - 14 persons/7 tents

Site P - 20 persons/10 tents

Site Q - 20 persons/10 tents

Site R - 20 persons/10 tents

Cottonwood Campground:

Group Site- Tents Only

25 person maximum capacity/13 tents

Rio Grande Village Campground:

Group site – tents only

Site A - 20 persons/10 tents

Site B - 20 persons/10 tents

Site C - 40 persons/20 tents

Site D - 40 persons/20 tents

A minimum of 10 persons is required to occupy a group campsite.

Checkout time for all designated campsites park-wide is 12 noon.

Quiet hours for all designated camping areas are from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m.

The following areas are closed to generator use:

- Rio Grande Village Campground sites 21 through 50 and 94 through 100
- Basin Campground sites 41 through 54

Generator use and the use of idling vehicles to generate power are allowed in designated areas between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. All other use of generators is prohibited.

The use of generators, or idling vehicles to generate power, is prohibited in Cottonwood Campground.

Occupied sites may not be unattended for more than 24 hours.

Connecting to water or electrical outlets, except designated water outlets at dump stations or within the RV park, is prohibited.

(d).

Within all campgrounds and the Chisos Developed Area, to include the Lost Mine Trail Parking Lot, any food, food product, cooking utensil, food garbage, used food containers, or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.) must be stored inside a vehicle or container that will prevent bears or other wildlife from acquiring the items, when not actually being transported, prepared, or consumed.

Backcountry Camping.

(a).

Backcountry camping permits are required for overnight stays in the backcountry and primitive backcountry road campsites.

Solo hikers obtaining a backcountry camping permit are required to fill out and submit a Solo Hiker information sheet at the time they obtain their camping permit. Solo hikers must return their permit at the end of their hike, or make notification to Big Bend NP that they have left the backcountry. Forms must be returned or notification made within 12 hours of leaving the backcountry.

The permit must be in the camper's possession while in the backcountry and must be exhibited upon the request of any authorized employee.

Checkout time for all designated campsites park-wide is 12 noon.

Only the backcountry areas established and described as open for backcountry camping in the Backcountry Management Plan, are open to camping. Those areas are hereby adopted as designated backcountry camping areas. Backcountry camping may not exceed the use or limits as established in the Backcountry Management Plan for Big Bend National Park. Those limits are hereby adopted. See Appendix B. Exceeding the established use, limits, or camping outside of designated areas is prohibited.

Within the designated backcountry camping areas, the following areas are closed to camping:

- Burro Mesa above 3400 feet elevation (Tule Mountain 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle).
- The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap; to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain.
- Within 1/2 mile of any development areas and paved or unpaved roads, except in developed campgrounds or at designated backcountry road campsites.
- Within 100 yards of a historic structure, archeological site, trail, or non-river water source, unless camping in a designated site.

- From the upstream end of the Santa Elena Canyon Nature Trail to 3/4 mile downstream from Castolon.
- The river floodplain from 1/2 mile upstream from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to the Boquillas Canyon Trail terminus.
- A 1/2 mile radius around the refinery ruins of Mariscal Mine.
- A 1/2-mile radius around the San Vicente river crossing.

Occupying a single backcountry campsite for more than 14 consecutive nights is prohibited. Camping for more than 28 nights in a calendar year, in any combination of backcountry and frontcountry campsites, is prohibited. No single permit will be issued for more than 14 consecutive nights in the backcountry except for River Use Permits which will not exceed 28 consecutive nights.

(d).

Within all designated campsites, any food, food product, cooking utensil, food garbage, used food containers or other aromatic products (including soap, toothpaste, deodorants, etc.) must be stored inside a vehicle or container that will prevent bears or other wildlife from acquiring the items, when the items are not actually being transported, prepared or consumed.

The caching of food by backcountry users is prohibited unless food is stored in a bear-proof container and labeled with the owner's name and expected date of removal. Cached water must have the owner's name and expected removal date on the containers. Water and/or food must be cached at least 100 yards from historic structures and trails.

SECTION 2.13: FIRES.

(a)(1).

Fires are prohibited in the park, except for:

- Charcoal fires in grills may be used in developed campgrounds, picnic areas, backcountry road campsites and NPS residence areas.
- Wood or charcoal fires contained in firepans and located near the river's edge on cobble or sand beaches in areas that are open to camping, and at NPS residence areas. Only dead and down wood may be used.

Fire remains must be made cold and out, and must be disposed of in trash receptacles or carried out of the park, except that non-floatable fire remains may be placed in the main current of the river.

SECTION 2.14: SANITATION AND REFUSE.

(a)(1).

In campgrounds with service sinks, disposing or dumping dish water and other gray water is prohibited except in the service sinks.

Food refuse at concessions and residences within the park must be secured so as to prevent wildlife from acquiring it.

Food refuse from concessions and residences within the Basin and Panther Junction developed areas must be secured in bear-proof dumpsters.

(a)(6).

On the river, cooking liquids may be strained (including dishwater) and deposited in the river. Strained materials must be carried out and deposited in a solid waste refuse container.

(b).

In non-developed areas more than a quarter of a mile from restroom facilities, solid human body waste must be buried six inches deep and at least 100 feet from the river and one quarter mile from any spring or stream water source, or it must be carried off the river and disposed of in an appropriate place.

Human waste may not be deposited in dumpsters or garbage cans in the park. Human waste carry-out systems must be compatible with proper disposal at sewage treatment facilities or holding tanks.

Boaters in the park must carry out all solid human waste, with the following exceptions:

- Private river users between the Santa Elena Take-out and Talley, and between Solis and the entrance to Boquillas Canyon.
- Single canoe or kayak-only trips.

SECTION 2.15: PETS.

(a)(1).

Dogs, cats, and other pets, (except service animals used by persons with disabilities) are prohibited on any park land, river, or trail except in those locations identified below:

- Paved and unpaved park roads open for public vehicular use.
- Paved parking areas.
- Established picnic areas.
- Frontcountry campgrounds.
- Established residential areas.
- Castolon Historic Compound.

- Within designated backcountry road campsites.

Pets may not be left unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal, or if the animal becomes a public nuisance.

(a) (5)

Pet owners are required to immediately remove and properly dispose of fecal matter deposited by pets in an appropriate refuse container.

(e).

Park residents and their guests shall control and maintain their pets consistent with the provisions of this section and in accordance with the provisions of the Management Directive no. 7: Big Bend National Park Pet Policy. That Management Directive is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. See Appendix C. Violation of the provisions of the Big Bend National Park Pet Policy is prohibited.

SECTION 2.16: HORSE AND PACK ANIMALS.

(a).

Only horses, mules, burros, and llamas are defined as pack animals.

(b).

The park is open to pack animals, except for the following areas which are closed to pack animals:

- The North Chisos Backcountry Use Area: the area enclosed by a perimeter through Crown Mountain's highest points, to the south face of Casa Grande, to Ward Mountain summit; then north, making a 1/2 mile radius around Oak Spring and Cattail Falls; east along the north face of Pulliam Ridge at 5400 feet elevation, across Green Gulch to the west side of Smuggler's Gap, to the road terminus in Pine Canyon, to the eastern peak of Crown Mountain. The Lost Mine and Window Trails are within this area.
- The High Chisos Use Area: defined in the Backcountry Management Plan, except for the Laguna Meadow and Southwest Rim Trails, and the Blue Creek Trail.
- The Boquillas Canyon Trail.
- All self guided nature trails.
- All paved roadways and their shoulders, except for necessary crossings. Stock may be used on backcountry roads.
- Within 1/2 mile of any development zone, except when using the designated access route from the Basin Amphitheater to the Laguna Meadow trail for access to the South Rim or Blue Creek trails.

- Within any developed or designated backcountry road or trail campsite, except those designated for stock use. See Appendix B.
- Crossing the Rio Grande.

(g).

Allowing stock to graze or browse in the park or picketing stock to any plant subject to grazing is prohibited.

Picketing or hobbling stock within 100 yards of a non-river water source is prohibited.

In backcountry roadside campsites where horses are permitted, and in parking areas where stock is unloaded and loaded, all manure, bedding, and feed shall be removed from the park by the user.

SECTION 2.20: SKATING, SKATEBOARDS AND SIMILAR DEVICES.

Only park residents and their guests may use these devices, and only in the areas hereby designated for use of these devices:

- The Rio Grande Village residential road from the horse corral to the terminus.
- All paved areas in the Panther Junction residential area south of the junction of the access road and Bobcat Loop.
- The Chisos Basin residential road from the "Employees Only" sign to the terminus.
- The Castolon residential road from the junction with Route 15 (Ross Maxwell Drive).

SECTION 2.21: SMOKING.

(a).

All government buildings and government vehicles are closed to smoking except those areas designated open in accordance with the Big Bend Management Directive no. 14: Smoking Policy. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. See Appendix D. Violating the provisions of this policy is prohibited.

Smoking is prohibited in all concession dining and lobby areas, stores, offices, and shops. "No Smoking" signs will be posted in these areas.

Smoking is prohibited on the Window Trail.

SECTION 2.22: PROPERTY.

(a)(2).

Leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours is prohibited except for motor vehicles parked at trailheads and river access points.

SECTION 2.23: RECREATION FEES.

(b).

Recreational Use Permits for entrance into the park may be issued by park personnel at the Maverick and Persimmon Gap Entrance Stations and the Panther Junction and Rio Grande Village visitor centers. Visitors entering the park must stop at the entrance station or the visitor center when they first enter the park, submit the required fee, and exhibit the permit on the vehicle windshield. Visitors arriving after normal business hours must submit their fee the next morning. The permittee must exhibit the permit upon the request of any authorized personnel.

SECTION 2.35: ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

(a)(3).

The following areas are closed to the possession of any open alcoholic beverage container or the consumption of any alcoholic beverage:

- All park operated visitor centers and ranger stations, to include the areas within the structures and any related developed areas adjacent to the structure which are frequented by the visiting public. This does not include the Community Room between the hours of 5 p.m. and 2 a.m.
- The areas within all concessions buildings open to the general public (with the exception of the Chisos Basin Lodge Dining Room), the stores, and parking areas immediately adjacent to the stores at Rio Grande Village, Castolon, the Basin, and Panther Junction.
- The Langford Hot Springs area, including the parking area, the loop trail, and the area from the mouth of Tornillo Creek to 1/2 mile downstream from the springs along the Rio Grande.

SECTION 2.51: PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES, MEETINGS.

(e).

The following are designated public meeting or assembly areas. Detailed maps of specific areas will be furnished upon request. See Appendix E.

- Rio Grande Village Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Castolon Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Basin Group Campground and amphitheater.
- Panther Junction Headquarters Community Room.
- The baseball diamond near the San Vicente School, except during school hours.
- The tennis court by the San Vicente School, except during school hours.

- Other areas so designated by the Superintendent for special events.

SECTION 2.52: SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER.

(e).

The following areas are designated as acceptable for the sale or distribution of printed matter. Sale or distribution areas may not interfere with foot traffic or block any public entrance. Detailed maps of specific areas will be furnished upon request. See Appendix F.

- Beneath the ramada at the Rio Grande Village Store, facing the parking lot, between the bulletin board and the south end of the store building.
- Beneath the ramada at the Castolon Store, facing the parking lot, on the first six feet of the walkway on the western end.
- On the plaza in front of the Chisos Basin Ranger Station, in a six foot wide area between the flagpole and the southeast building roof corner, and within four feet of the rock retaining wall closest to the lodge.
- Beneath the ramada at the Panther Junction Visitor Center on the six feet of the walkway to the west of the Visibility Display and no more than four feet in from the north edge of the walkway.

SECTION 3.3: BOAT PERMITS.

Permits are required for the use of any water vessel within the boundaries administered by Big Bend National Park and the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, except for day use boaters on the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern park boundary, and day use floating on the river on inner tubes.

The following are special conditions of all river use permits:

- Each person shall have a wearable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) which is properly fitted, in serviceable condition, and immediately accessible while on the river. Type I, III, or V PFD's are required for Santa Elena, Mariscal, and the Lower Canyons. PFDs must be worn in Class II or greater difficulty whitewater. PFDs are recommended but are not required for people floating the river on inner tubes.
- Each group shall carry one extra type I, III or V PFD.
- Each vessel shall carry an extra paddle or oar; kayaks shall have an extra paddle per party.
- Each group using inflatable vessels, except air mattresses or inner tubes traveling with a support vessel through the major canyons, will carry an operable pump and a patch kit capable of making major repairs.
- No vessels shall carry more than a safe load (in persons or total weight) considering type of craft, intended use area, and water and weather conditions.

- Inner tubes are not allowed in Mariscal Canyon, Santa Elena Canyon, and Lower Canyons.
- A group, organization or commercial operator may start no more than 20 persons per day, not including guides, on the Rio Grande within the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River downstream of the eastern boundary of Big Bend National Park.

On the following river sections, group size for private trips is limited to 30 persons. Commercial operators may start no more than 30 persons per day, not including guides:

- Western park boundary to the Santa Elena take-out
- Santa Elena take-out to Cottonwood Campground
- Cottonwood Campground to Reed Camp
- Solis to La Clocha
- La Clocha to Boquillas Canyon entrance

On the following river sections, group size for private trips is limited to 20 persons. Commercial operators may start no more than 20 persons per day, not including guides:

- Talley to Solis
- Boquillas Canyon entrance to the eastern park boundary
- Individual river trips must travel, camp, and eat lunch separate from other groups.

SECTION 3.6: PROHIBITED OPERATIONS.

(h).

Using trailers to launch or recover vessels is prohibited, except at the following designated sites:

Castolon put-in/take-out
Solis
Rio Grande Village put-in/take-out

SECTION 4.21: SPEED LIMITS.

(b).

The following areas are designated as 25 miles per hour speed limits:

- Approaches to Maverick and Persimmon Gap Entrance Stations
- Daniels Ranch Road
- Route 14 (Basin Road) near mile post 4.5 to near mile post 6
- Alsate Avenue at Panther Junction from Route 12 to the second intersection with Bobcat Loop (San Vicente School zone – 15 miles per hour).

- Boquillas Canyon Road
- RGV Campground Road from the RGV store to the campground

The following area is designated as 30 miles per hour speed limits:

- Route 12 (RGV Road) and Route 13 (Hwy 118) near the Panther Junction Headquarters
- Route 12 (RGV Road) from the Tunnel to Rio Grande Village
- Route 11 (Hwy 385) near Panther Junction

The following areas are designated as 35 miles per hour speed limits:

- Route 15 from 1/2 mile north of Castolon Residential Area to Route 16 (Santa Elena Canyon Road)
- Route 16
- Route 14 (Basin Road) near mile post 2.75 to near mile post 4.5

SECTION 4.30: BICYCLES.

In accordance with Section 4.2(a) adopting Texas Transportation Code Sections 541.201(8) and 551.003, all regulations applicable to bicycles apply to low speed electric vehicles.

(d)(3).

Operating a bicycle abreast of another bicycle is allowed only on unpaved roads and on paved parking areas.